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AXIS!

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THE
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R. HOBERG
&
J. ORDWAY

AWESOME
ORIGIN ISSUE!

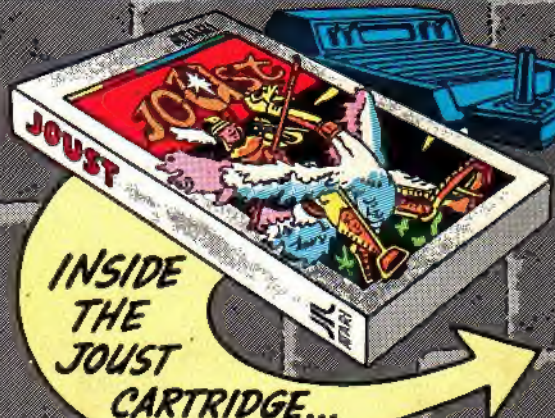


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ATARI
PRESENTS

JOUST

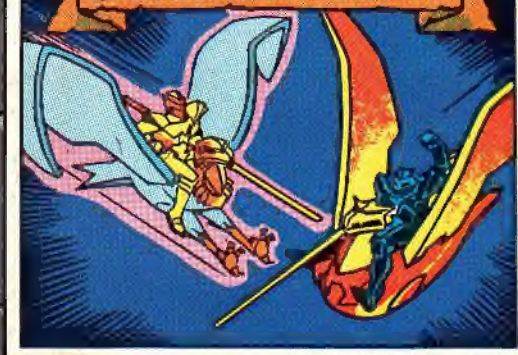
Another smash arcade hit brought home only by Atari for * use with the ATARI® 2600™ Game, Sears Video Arcade† systems and versions exclusively for the ATARI 5200™ SuperSystem and all ATARI Home Computers.



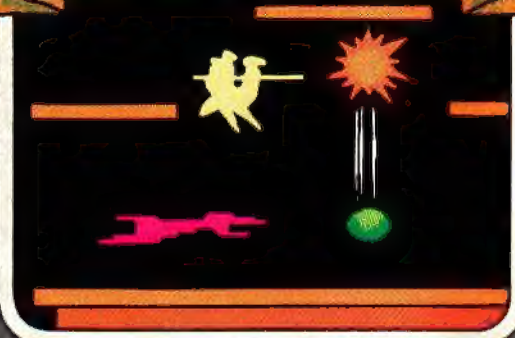
LONG AGO, IN THE DISTANT FUTURE, THERE'S A PLACE WHERE EVIL KNIGHTS JOUST UPON BEASTS OF THE AIR.



WHERE YOU MUST FLY, JOUST WITH YOUR LANCE...



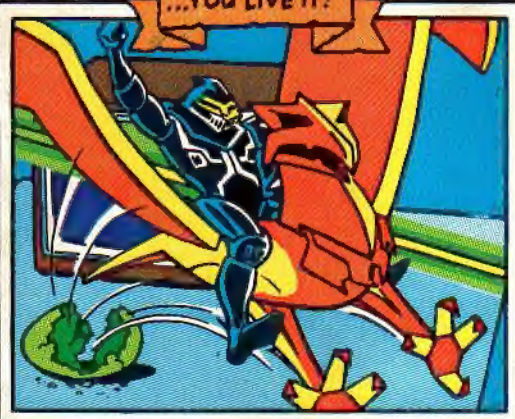
...AND RETRIEVE THE ENEMY'S EGG BEFORE IT TRANSFORMS INTO ITS FORMER SELF.



JOUST. YOU DON'T PLAY IT...



...YOU LIVE IT!



JOUST

ATARI®

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PORTRAIT OF A DEAD MAN IN AGONY:

INTERRUPTED IN THE ACT OF TAKING AN ALL-STAR TASK FORCE TO EARTH-X, THE COSMOS-STALKING SPECTRE FINDS HIMSELF UNABLE TO ENTER THAT ALTERNATE WORLD HIMSELF--

--AS THE MYSTERIOUS VOICE WHICH RESTORED HIM TO MYSTIC HALF-LIFE TWO YEARS AGO ANSWERS HIS TORTURED PLEAS.

WATCH, IF YOU WILL --
AND I SHALL SHOW
YOUR FELLOW MYSTERY-
MEN TO YOU--

-- THOUGH YOU
ARE FORBIDDEN, ON
PERIL OF YOUR IMMORTAL
SOUL, TO TRY TO REACH
OR HELP THEM!

BY SHEOL
AND
GEHENNA!

THE SEVEN DO INDEED
STAND UPON THE
AMERICAN WEST COAST
OF THAT OTHER EARTH--
EVEN AS THE JAPANESE
ATTACK BEGINS--AT A
PLACE CALLED GOLETA,
NEAR SANTA BARBARA,
CALIFORNIA!*

AND I, WHO
HAVE WALKED WHERE
ANGELS AND DEMONS
ALIKE DO FEAR TO TREAD,
CAN DO--NOTHING!

OH
MY
GOD!

ZEROES--
STRAFING THAT
OIL REFINERY--
BOMBING IT--

--WHILE THEIR
SHOCK TROOPS
LAND UNDER COVER
OF FIRE AND
FURY!

* IN DIFFERING WAYS, UNCLE SAM
AND THE DOLL MAN LEARNED
LAST ISSUE OF AN IMPENDING
AXIS ASSAULT UPON CALIFORNIA,
TO BE LAUNCHED AT DAWN ON
THIS DATE OF FEBRUARY 23,
1942, ON EARTH-X. --R.

"This is war! Death and destruction
may come from the skies at any
moment!"

--Lt. Gen. John L. De Witt
(Commanding Officer, Fourth Army
and Western Defense Command,
somewhat overstating the case for
California on the morning of
December 8, 1941.

WINTER, 1942--A WORLD AT WAR! AND AGAINST THE FORCES OF AXIS DARKNESS, THE MOST HEROIC
HEROES OF EARTH-TWO HAVE Banded TOGETHER, UNDER DIRECT ORDERS OF THE PRESIDENT, AS THE...

ALL-STAR
SQUADRON

THE BATTLE OF SANTA BARBARA --TIMES TWO!

AYE! THE
PLANES CAN ONLY
COME FROM A
JAPANESE CARRIER
LYING SOMEWHERE
BEYOND THE CHANNEL
ISLANDS.

THEN WHAT'RE
WE WAITING FOR,
UNCLE SAM?

GET RID OF
THIS NUTTY AURA!
THE SPECTRE THREW UP
AROUND US--AND LET'S
GO GET 'EM!

THOMP!

FROOM!

WPOH!

ROY THOMAS
writer/editor
RICK HOBERG
penciller
BILL COLLINS
inker
GENE D'ANGELO
colorist
CODY
letterer



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M EANWHILE.

Hil My name is Mindy Newell. Okay, I know my moniker is unfamiliar to you, right now. Pretty soon, however, it will be gracing the pages of NEW TALENT SHOWCASE. There's been a lot of publicity about this project, but no one has thought to ask any of us ("us" being the aforementioned NEW TALENT) of our experiences. I thought it might be informative and encouraging for other aspiring comic professionals to learn a bit about the inner workings and machinations of being published.

I asked Dick, and he gave me permission to tell you about the phone booth hidden within the confines of 666 Fifth Avenue into which an ordinary, mild-mannered woman can enter and emerge seconds later as.....
SUPERWRITER!!!!!!

Well, so that's not exactly what happens. Sometimes my imagination gets a little carried away. I am a writer, after all. But I'm not mild-mannered, and I don't wear glasses, either.

How does it happen? I can only tell you of my own experience, and of the things I have been taught.

About a year ago, a note was made of the hunt for new faces at DC right on this page. I had written some articles for magazines, starting a nice collection of reject slips. There were also a pile of stories I had written, mostly for myself, sitting and collecting dust in one of my desk drawers. (What did I do for a living? I was a registered nurse.) But I had never written for any fanzines, nor had considered comics as a viable alternative for showing off any talent I might possess.

But I was at a crossroads in my life. Nursing had paled on me, even though the money was good...and I had vowed never to become the gruff, bitter type, feeling trapped in a job that calls for so much. A nurse means caring. I had what has been termed as "post-divorce syndrome": throwing myself into a variety of activities.

So it was a combination of these factors, plus curiosity, that made me sit down, compile a character and

storyline, and send it off to Sal Amendola, he being the NEW TALENT COORDINATOR. Poor guy. His desk has never looked the same. Among the hundreds of manila envelopes he plowed through was mine.

First there was some preliminary correspondence. Just enough to get my hopes up. Of course, I knew better than to count my chickens before they hatched, but who cared? There was a chance!

About six weeks later, I found myself sitting in Karen Berger's office. (She being the editor of the SHOWCASE book). With typical New Yorker aplomb, I was very matter-of-fact as we sat and discussed a bit of my personal history, writing experience, story-line and plot possibilities. Right, Karen? I even managed to shake Len Wein's hand with just the right amount of nonchalance when he interrupted our discussion, and Karen introduced me. Uh, Karen, don't look at me like that. Well, never mind her folks. I really was the height of Big Apple sophistication.

Then I was sent home with stacks of material on comic writing. Actually, I floated home. Why, I even got stuck in the Holland Tunnel for an hour and a half, and couldn't care less. If you've never gotten stuck in the Holland Tunnel.... How many of you have ever read Dante's Inferno? That's the idea. But I actually welcomed the traffic. Gave me a chance to think about what had transpired earlier.

Once I got home, I laid everything out in front of me. This included guidelines, old plot synopses and scripts, a couple of old House of Mystery's, and notes I had taken during my discussion with Karen. I didn't get to work right away.

But the next day, I tackled my typewriter with great fervor. There are many ways of writing a comic, but I was doing a full script. This entails art directions, panel breakdowns, sound effects, captions, and dialogue. Before one can graduate to other forms, a writer must learn to visualize the spread of the page. This includes understanding panel placement, the

amount of action that can be contained in a single panel, caption and balloon placement, and the amount of words per panel.

The comic book is a visual medium. For the writer, this means learning to have an artist's eye. A course in journalism is helpful, too, since the words themselves must be kept to a minimum. Yet, the story must be well-paced and cohesive, neither artwork nor printed word dominating. They must work together.

This is all part of the basics. Many writers prefer to always work with a full script, feeling that it helps them in planning and seeing the story in their mind's eye. I find myself in that fraternity. I don't know if I'll ever "graduate" to descriptive page breakdowns. (Or maybe I'm just starting to feel comfortable with what I already know...we'll see.)

It took a while, but I finally finished my first script. It took numero visits to Karen, lots of re-writes, learning, and unlearning. But when I first saw the pencils of JENESIS done by Mark Beachum, it was something hard to describe. Sort of akin to the feeling I had when I gave birth to my daughter. Creativity personified. Amazing!

Since then, I've written three more stories. Has it come easier with each passing one? Yes and no. I understand the mechanics better. My dialogue is becoming more polished, my pacing more professional. But, I still make mistakes. And that's the hard part, at least for me. I find myself pushing harder all the time, getting angry for not being SUPERWRITER. I expect more of myself with each visit to Karen. Of course, she does, too. Sometimes, the harshest criticism can come from inside.

Are there common factors with us? Talent? Sure, I suppose. Still, there are other things, some more important. Determination to succeed. Maturity to handle criticism. Ability to fall on your face, get up, dust yourself off, and keep going. Knowing that others know more than you'd do. Accepting that. Wanting to learn. Timing. Luck. Discipline.

Finally, kudos must go to Dick Giordano, Sal Amendola, and Karen Berger. To Dick, for being the guiding light behind the drive to directly introduce and instill fresh faces into the industry. To Sal, for having the patience to listen as we have all cried on his shoulders at one time or another. And to Karen, for having the guts to take on a bunch of amateurs, and trying to turn us into pros.

Do I have any personal tips? Well, I shouldn't, but...sit through your record stack. Take out any John Williams score. Put on your headphones. Sit down in front of your typewriter. And write!

Excuse me. Have to go put the other side of THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK on.

Thanks, Dick!

Mindy

--AND I'LL STREAK BY 'EM SO FAST THEY WON'T EVEN HAVE TIME TO SEE ME COMING, LET ALONE SHOOT ME!

OKAY, FREEDOM FIGHTERS, REMEMBER PEARL HARBOR!

BLACK CONDOR FORGETS--THERE WAS NO PEARL HARBOR ATTACK ON THIS EARTH, 'CAUSE HOURMAN AND THE REST HELPED ME PREVENT IT, A COUPLE OF MONTHS BACK.

ONLY THING IS, HE AND FIVE OTHER HEROES DIED DOIN' IT--

--AND IF THIS IS WHAT TOJO'S COOKED UP INSTEAD, MAYBE WE SHOULD'VE LEFT WELL ENOUGH ALONE!

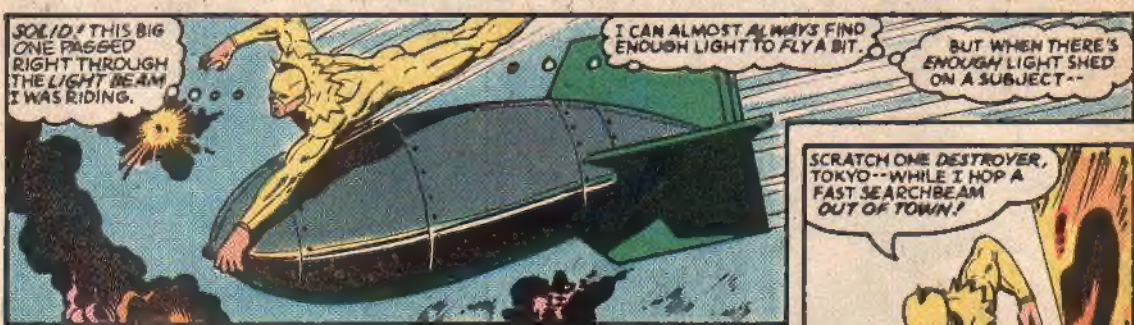
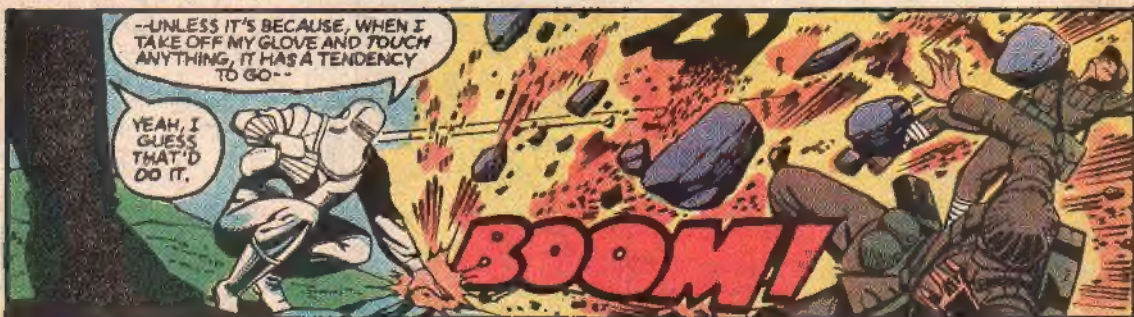
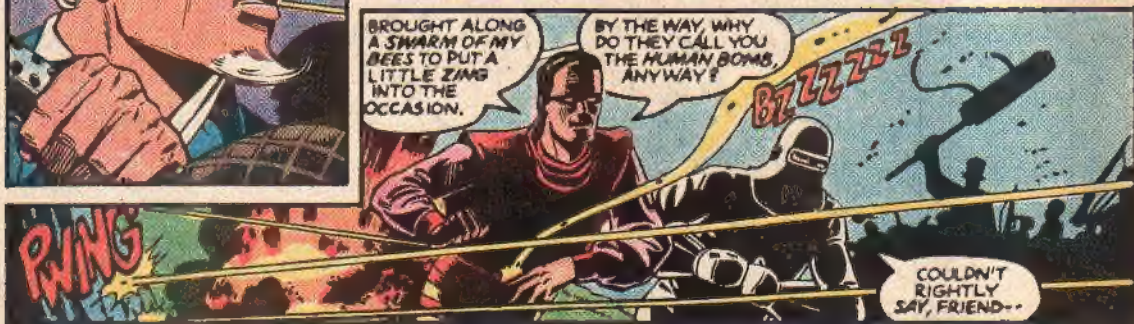
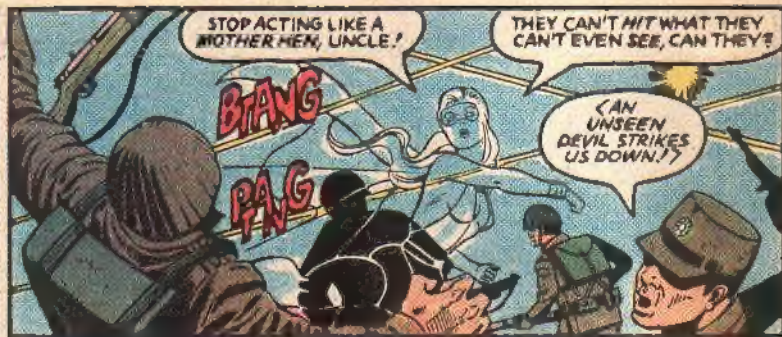
HELP 'EM SEE THE LIGHT, PHANTOM LADY!

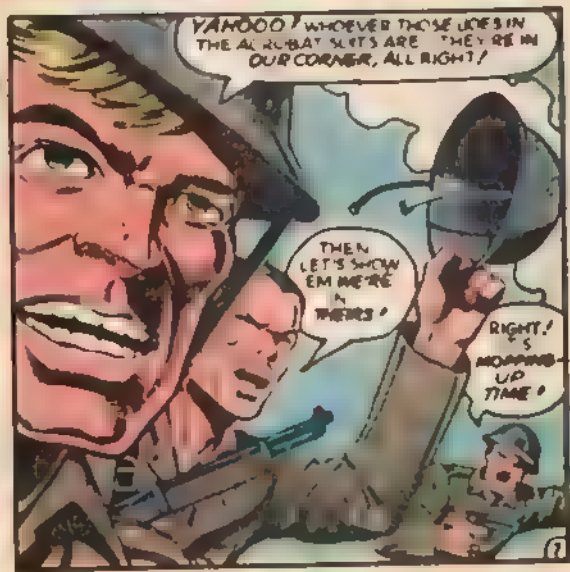
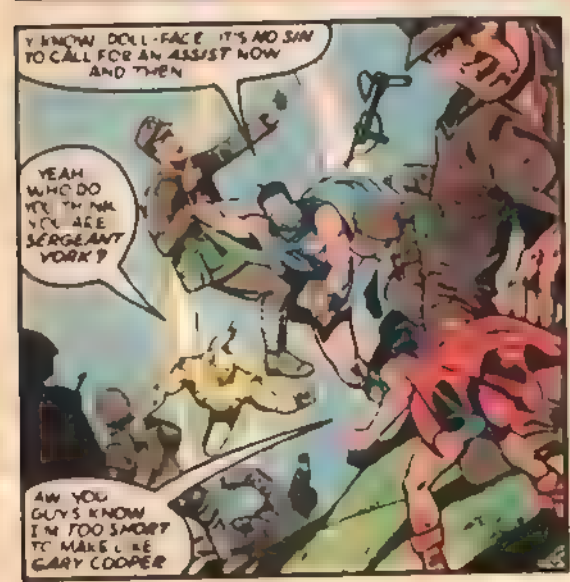
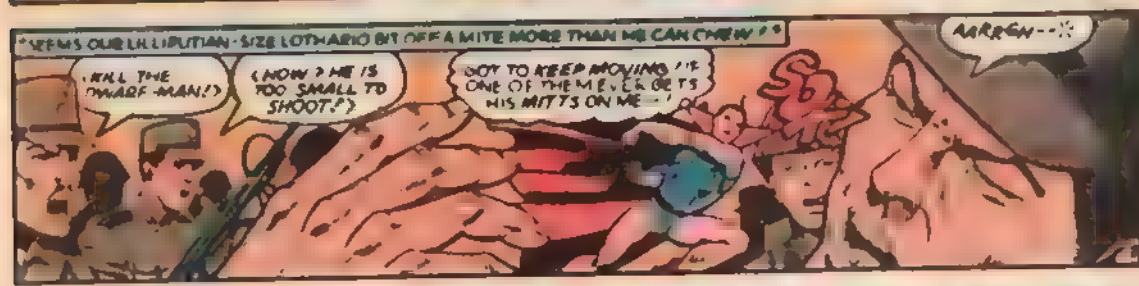
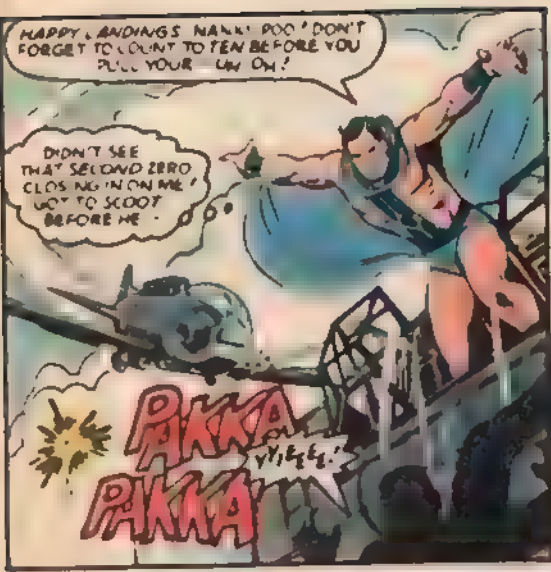
BLACK LIGHT, THAT IS.

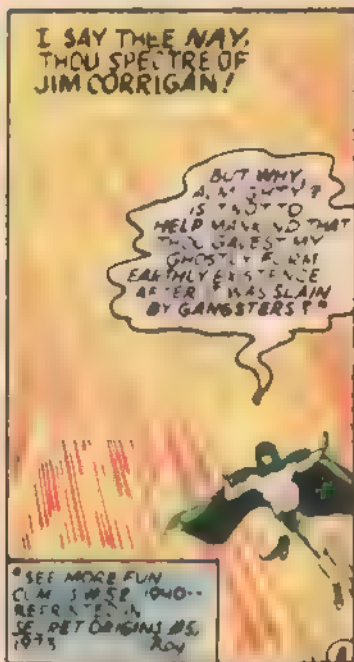
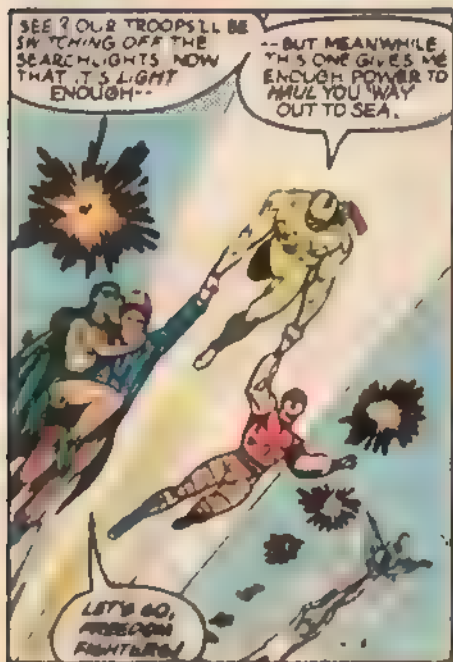
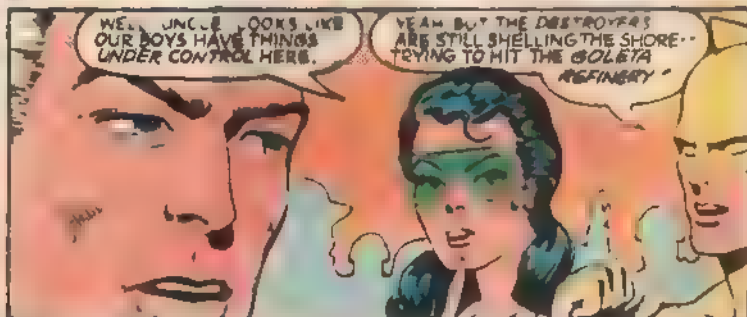
OR MAYBE STARS!

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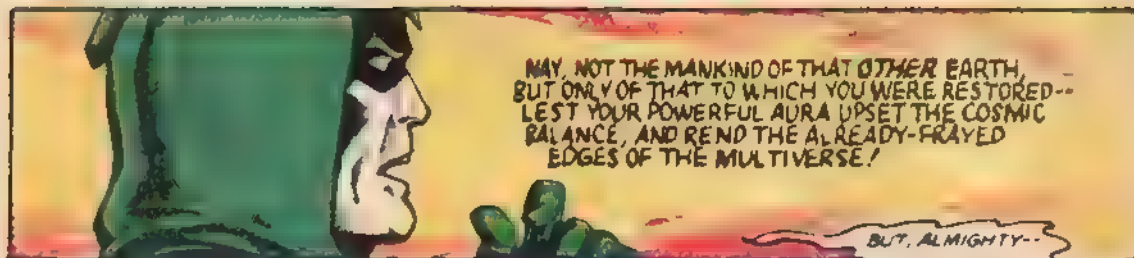
No interest

No carrying charges

Clip out — wrap finger — mark line at arrow point — mail with coupon.

RING SIZE





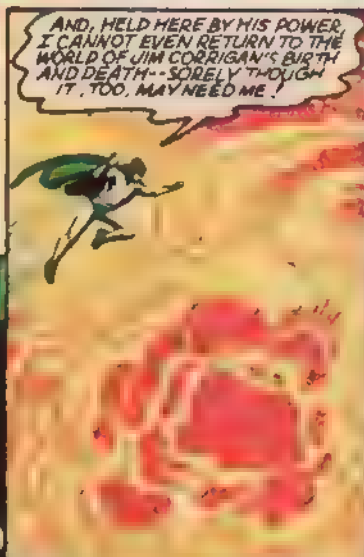
MAY, NOT THE MANKIND OF THAT OTHER EARTH,
BUT ONLY OF THAT TO WHICH YOU WERE RESTORED--
LEST YOUR POWERFUL AURA UPSET THE COSMIC
BALANCE, AND REND THE ALREADY-FRAYED
EDGES OF THE MULTIVERSE!

BUT, ALMIGHTY--



I HAVE SPOKEN--
AND SHALL SAY
NO MORE!

WAIT
I--
HE IS
GONE



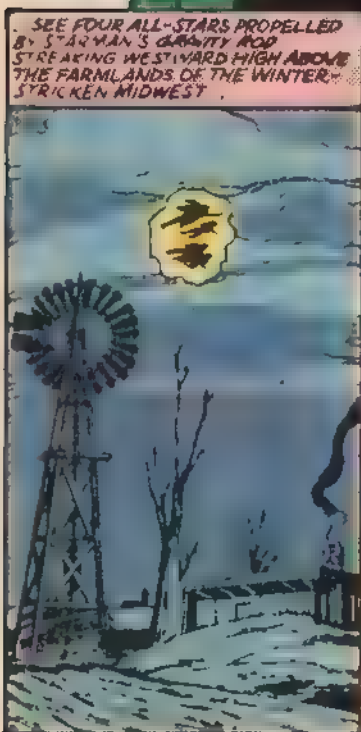
AND, HELD HERE BY HIS POWER,
I CANNOT EVEN RETURN TO THE
WORLD OF JIM CORRIGAN'S BIRTH
AND DEATH-- SORELY THOUGH
IT, TOO, MAY NEED ME!



YET I DO SENSE A MOST
INTRICATE CONNECTION,
SOMEHOW TWIXT THE
ATTACK UPON SANTA BARBARA--
AND EVENTS UPON THAT
EARTH

PERHAPS, AT
LEAST, I MAY
SEE WHAT--

AND THE
SPECTRE
DOES
SEE



SEE FOUR ALL-STARS PROPELLED
BY STARMAN'S GRAVITY AOP
STREAKING WESTWARD HIGH ABOVE
THE FARMLANDS OF THE WINTER-
STRICKEN MIDWEST

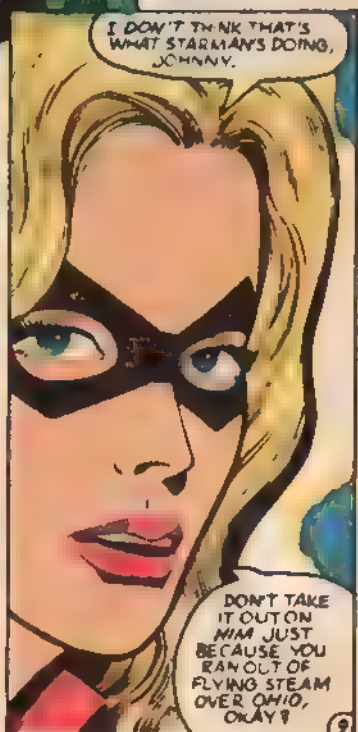


...TOWARD CALIFORNIA:

SORRY IT'S TAKING SO
LONG, FRIENDS-- BUT IT
TAKES A LOT OF ENERGY
AND WILLPOWER TO
CARRY US ALL ALONG.

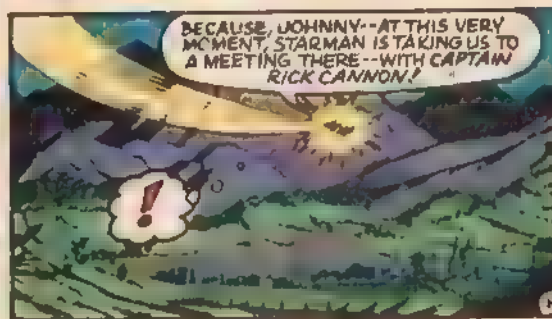
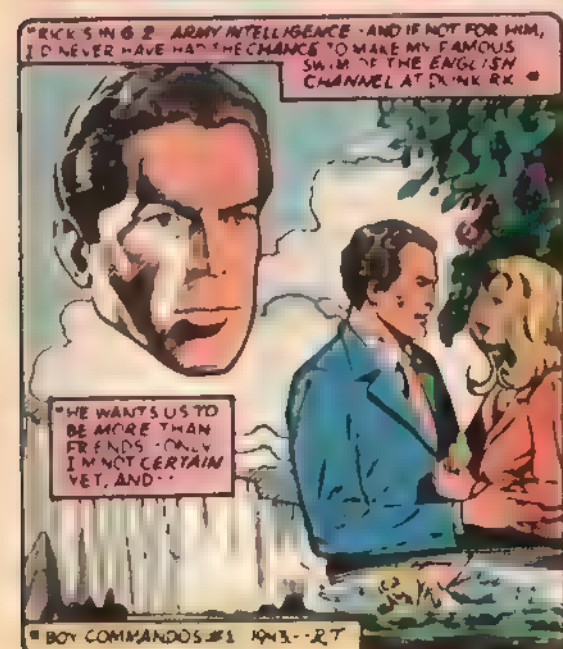
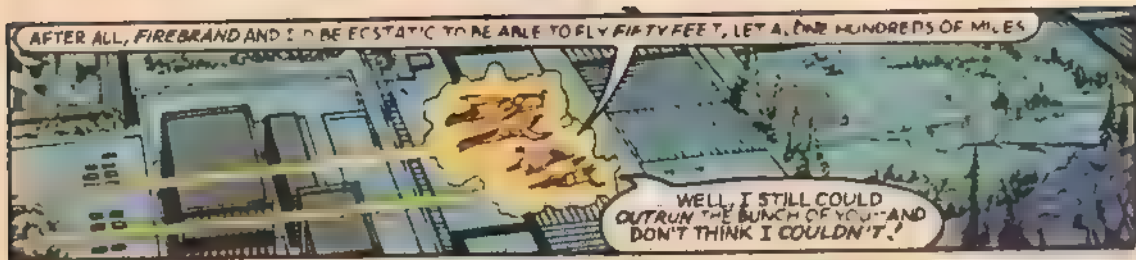
IT'S ONLY
BEEN AN
HOUR.

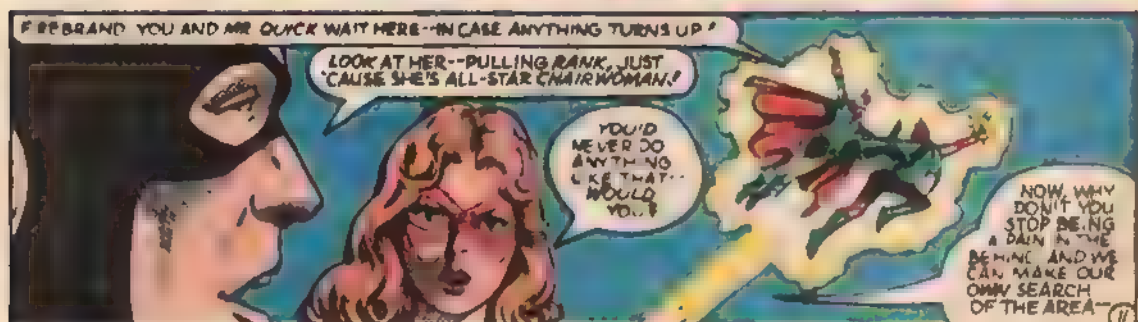
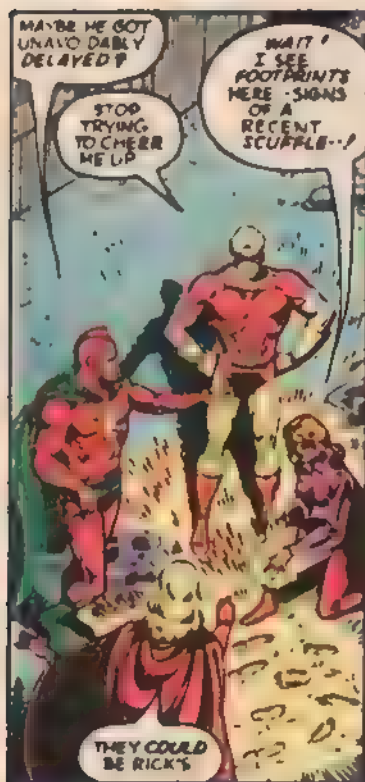
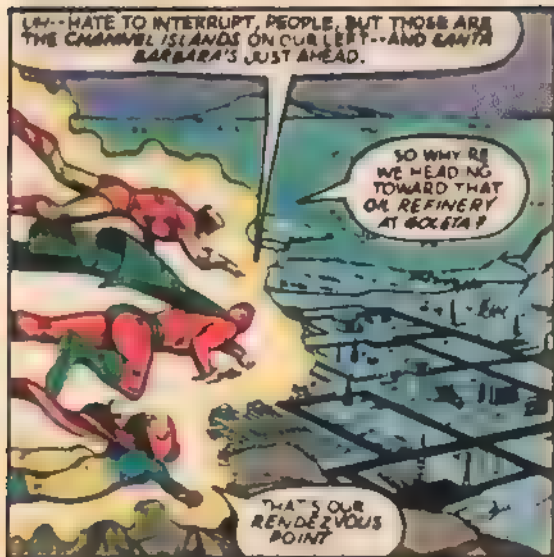
LISTEN TO HIM,
BELLE-- FISHIN' FOR
COMPLIMENTS!



I DON'T THINK THAT'S
WHAT STARMAN'S DOING,
JOHNNY.

DON'T TAKE
IT OUT ON
MIM JUST
BECAUSE YOU
RAN OUT OF
FLYING STEAM
OVER OHIO,
OKAY?







OR IF YOU
JUST WANT TO
STAY HERE AND
SULK I'LL JUST...
OHMM?

I'M AN ALL-
STAR TOO, BRANDY.
I CAN CARRY MY
OWN WEIGHT...
AND YOURS TOO!



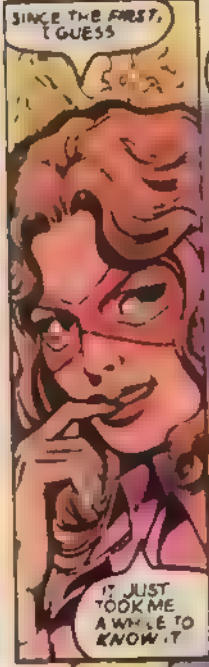
HOLD IT! DON'T
WIGGLE OUT OF
MY--

DON'T WORRY
JOHNNY JUST WANTED
TO MAKE SURE I DON'T
BARBECUE YOU.



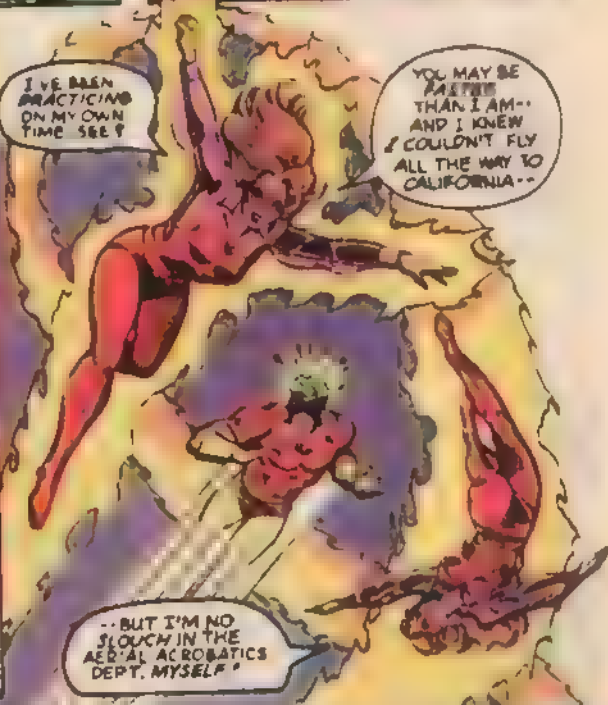
--WHEN I USED MY
FIREPOWER, SO TO SPEAK,
TO FLY ON MY OWN?

HEH? SINCE WHEN
HAVE YOU
BEEN ABLE
TO--?



SINCE THE FIRST,
I GUESS

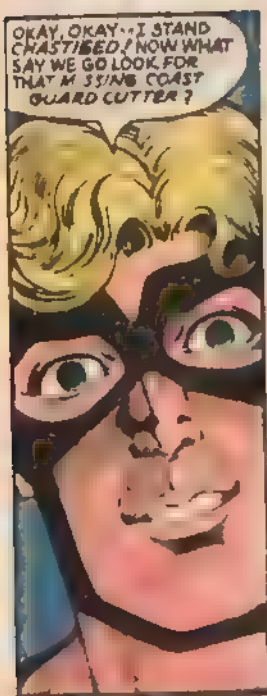
IT JUST
TOOK ME
A WHILE TO
KNOW IT



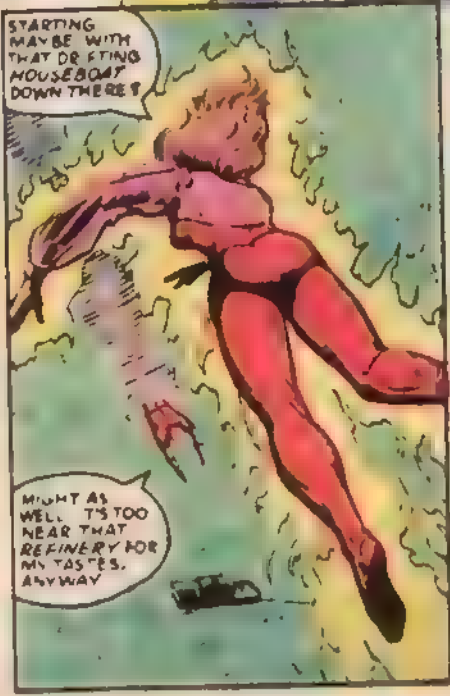
I'VE BEEN
PRACTICING
ON MY OWN
TIME SEE?

YOU MAY BE
FASTER
THAN I AM--
AND I KNEW
I COULDN'T FLY
ALL THE WAY TO
CALIFORNIA--

--BUT I'M NO
SLOUCH IN THE
AERIAL ACROBATICS
DEPT. MYSELF.



OKAY, OKAY--I STAND
CHASTISED! NOW WHAT
SAY WE GO LOOK FOR
THAT MISSING COAST
GUARD CUTTER?



STARTING
MAYBE WITH
THAT DRIFTING
HOUSEBOAT
DOWN THERE?

MIGHT AS
WELL 'TIS TOO
NEAR THAT
REFINERY FOR
MY TASTES.
ANYWAY

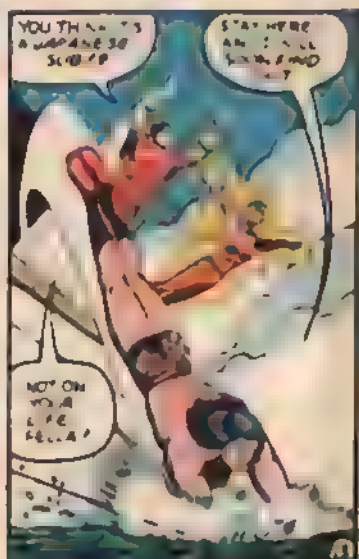
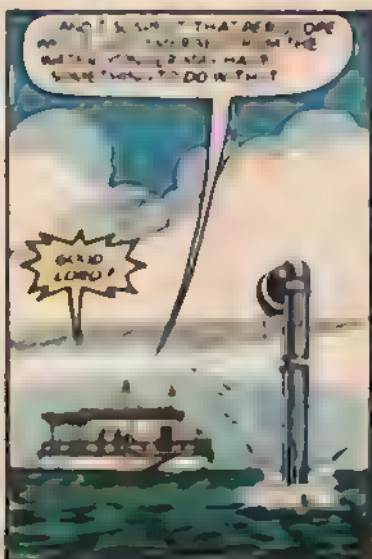
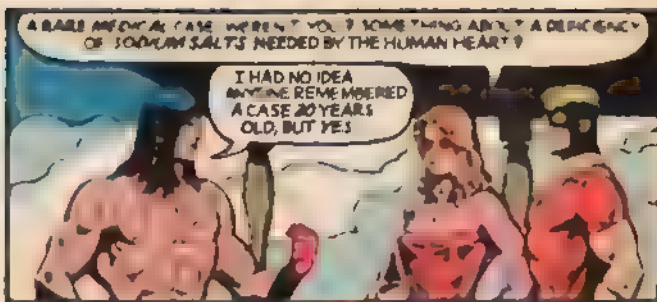


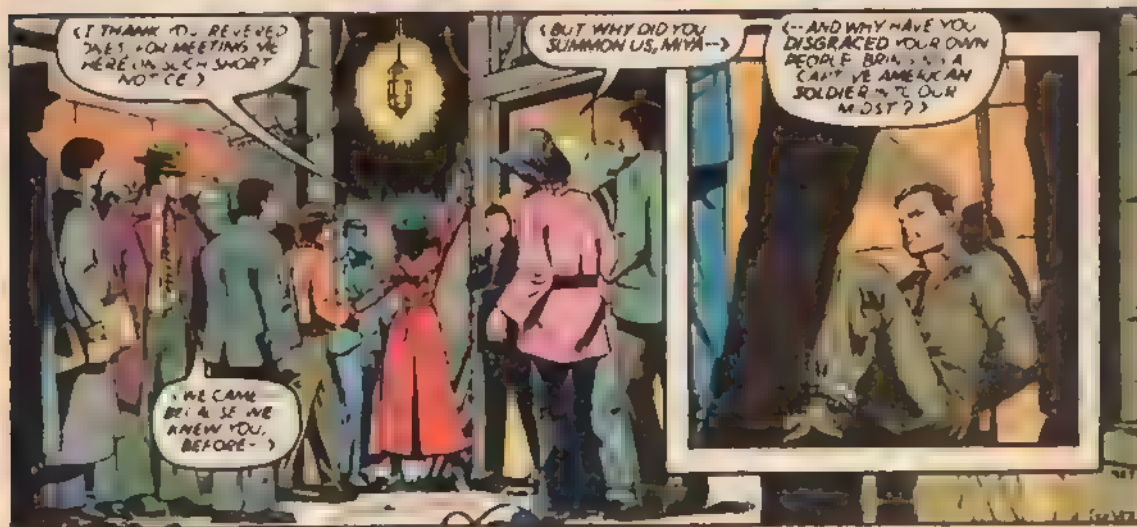
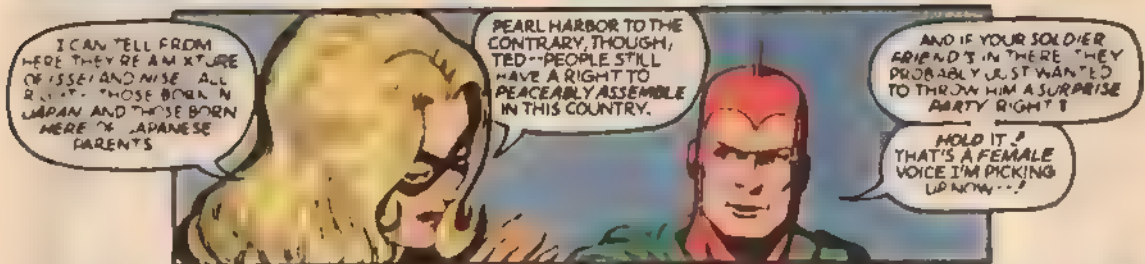
THIS IS WEIRD. IT'S DESERTED!

HOW DO YOU
KNOW YOU
JUST LANDED.

SISTER I
CAN FRISK A PLACE
FASTER THAN YOU
CAN SEE ME DO IT--
AND I SAY THERE'S
NOBODY ON BOARD.

CORRECTION
THERE WASN'T







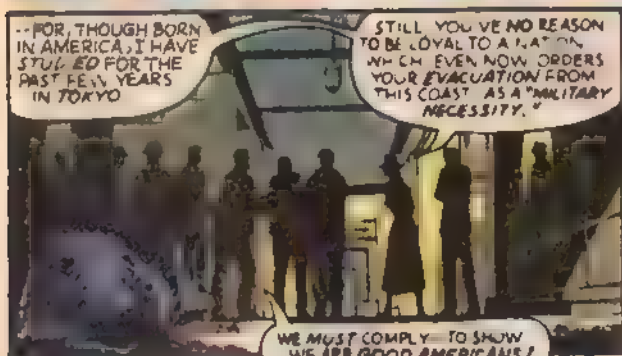
(PERHAPS SO, BUT THAT'S STILL NO REASON TO--)

HEY, WILL YOU GUYS PLEASE TALK AMERICAN?

YEAH! MOST OF US NISEI DON'T KNOW A WORD OF JAPANESE.

YOU KIBEI! COME OVER HERE-- TRY TO INFLAME US--!

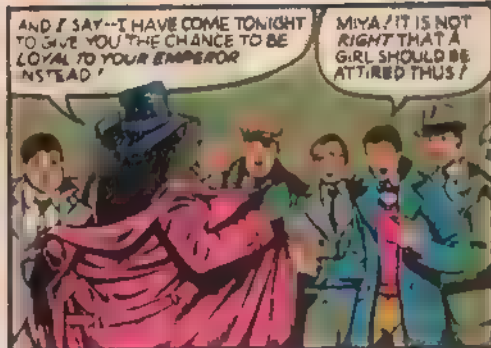
IT IS TRUE--I AM WHAT THEY IN JAPAN CALL, WITH SCORN, A NERVE--



--FOR, THOUGH BORN IN AMERICA, I HAVE STUDIED FOR THE PAST FEW YEARS IN TOKYO

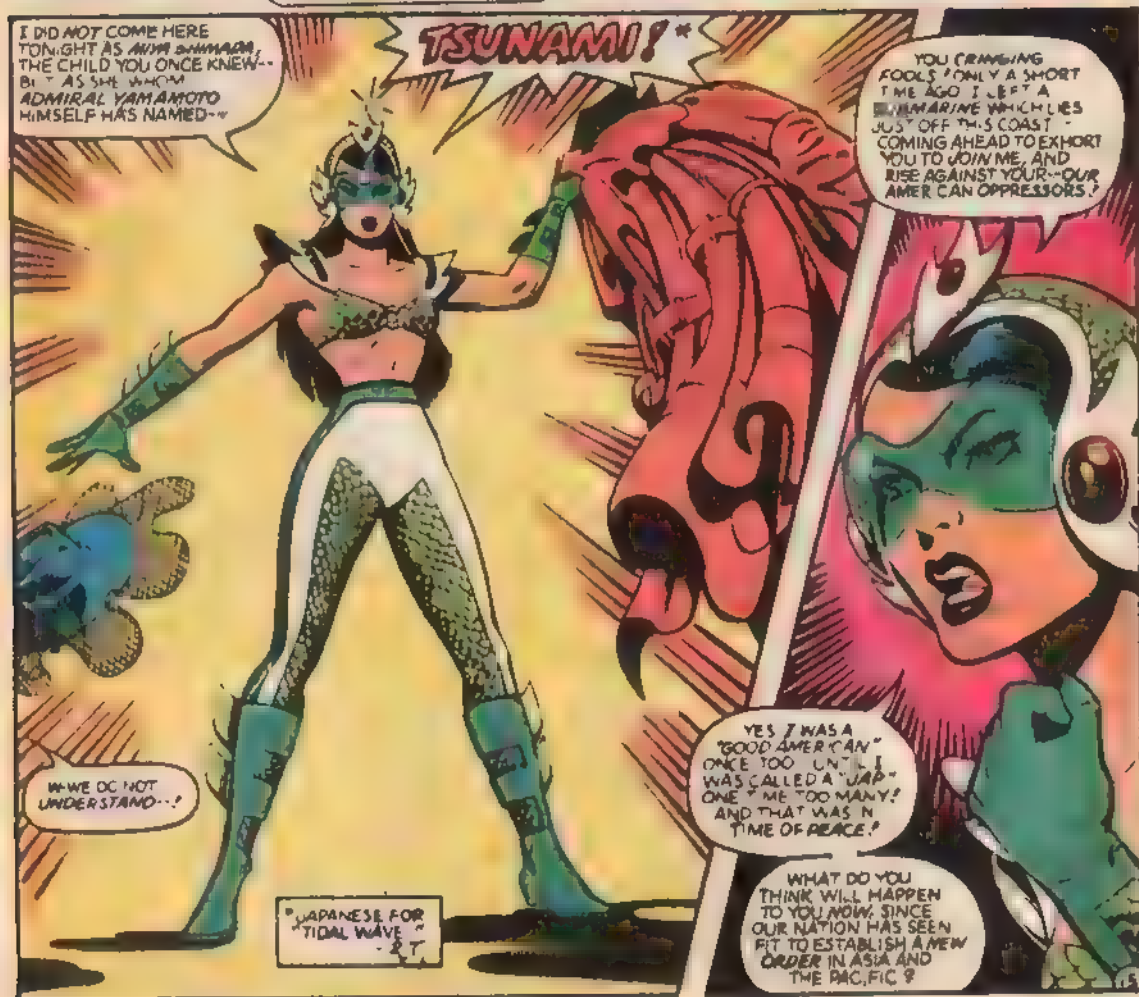
STILL YOU'VE NO REASON TO BE LOYAL TO A NATION WHICH EVEN NOW ORDERS YOUR EVACUATION FROM THIS COAST AS A "MILITARY NECESSITY."

WE MUST COMPLY-- TO SHOW WE ARE GOOD AMERICANS!



AND I SAY--I HAVE COME TONIGHT TO GIVE YOU THE CHANCE TO BE LOYAL TO YOUR EMPEROR INSTEAD!

MIYA! IT IS NOT RIGHT THAT A GIRL SHOULD BE ATTACHED THUS!



I DID NOT COME HERE TONIGHT AS ANNA MIYAMOTO, THE CHILD YOU ONCE KNEW-- BUT AS SHE WHOM ADMIRAL YAMAMOTO HIMSELF HAS NAMED--

TSUNAMI!

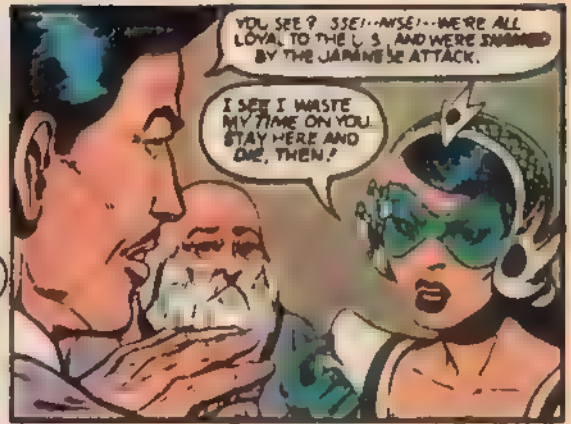
YOU CRAWLING FOOLS! ONLY A SHORT TIME AGO I LEFT A SUBMARINE WHICH LIES JUST OFF THIS COAST-- COMING AHEAD TO EXHORT YOU TO JOIN ME, AND RISE AGAINST YOUR--OUR AMERICAN OPPRESSORS!

WE DO NOT UNDERSTAND--!

"JAPANESE FOR TIDAL WAVE"

YES I WAS A "GOOD AMERICAN" ONCE TOO-- UNTIL I WAS CALLED A "JAP" ONE "ME" TOO MANY! AND THAT WAS IN TIME OF PEACE!

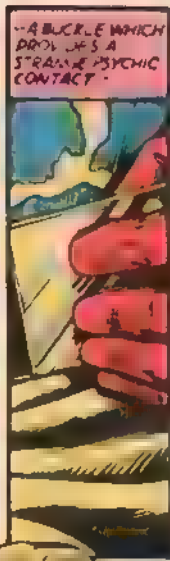
WHAT DO YOU THINK WILL HAPPEN TO YOU NOW, SINCE OUR NATION HAS SEEN FIT TO ESTABLISH A NEW ORDER IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC?





WE'VE GOT TO GET INSIDE, BEFORE--

BESIDE HER TED
KRYGHT SCARCELY
NOTES AS HIS
COMELY CUN
PAINFUL TOUCHES
HER BELT
BUCKLE--



--A BUCKLE WHICH
PROVES A
STRANGE PSYCHIC
CONTACT--



--WITH A CERTAIN
BELL IN FAR OFF
PHILADELPHIA--

EH?



--WHERE GUARD
TOM REVERE
SENSES THE CALL--

T ME TO
RING IN THE
NEW IS IT?



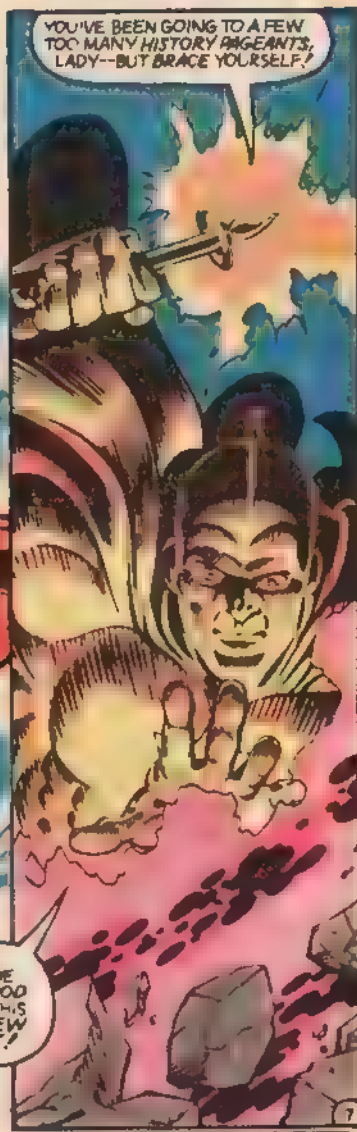
--SO THAT MERE
MOMENTS
LATER--

ALL
RIGHT
FRIEND--



I CAN FEEL THE ADRENALINE
FLOWING THROUGH MY
BODY AGAIN GIVING ME
MORE STRENGTH AND
AGILITY THAN LIBBY
LAWRENCE LADY
NEWSCASTER EVER
DREAMED OF.

SINCE THE
OTHER ALL STARS
ARE BUSY WITH ALL
THAT NAZI SABOTAGE
BACK EAST--
IT'S TIME FOR
LIBERTY BELLE
TO FIRE THE FIST
HEARD 'ROUND
THE WORLD!



YOU'VE BEEN GOING TO A FEW
TOO MANY HISTORY PAGEANTS,
LADY--BUT BRACE YOURSELF!

HERE'S
WHERE THE
GRAVITY ROD
AND I TEAR THIS
PLACE A NEW
SKYLIGHT!

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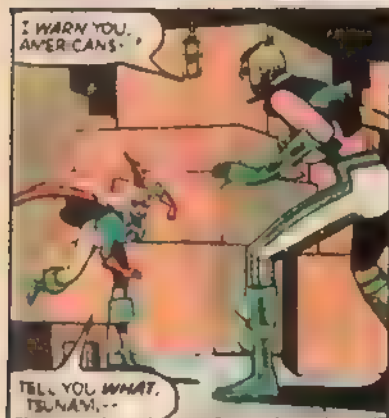
SCATTER, EVERYBODY! THE ALL-STAR SQUADRON WILL HANDLE-- NO!!

SHE'S MULED RICK LIKE A DAPERWEIGHT! NO WAY I CAN--

DON'T WORRY ABOUT CAPTAIN CANNON, BELLE

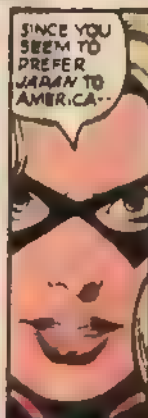


WHEN IT COMES TO INTERCEPTING PASSES, JUST CALL ME BROWNO NAGURSKI!

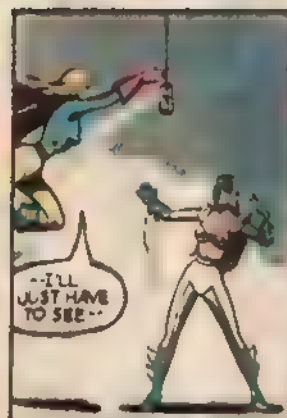


I WARN YOU, AMER.CANS--

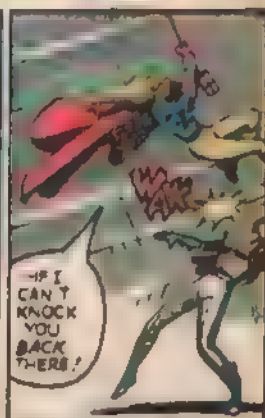
TELL YOU WHAT, TSUNAMI--



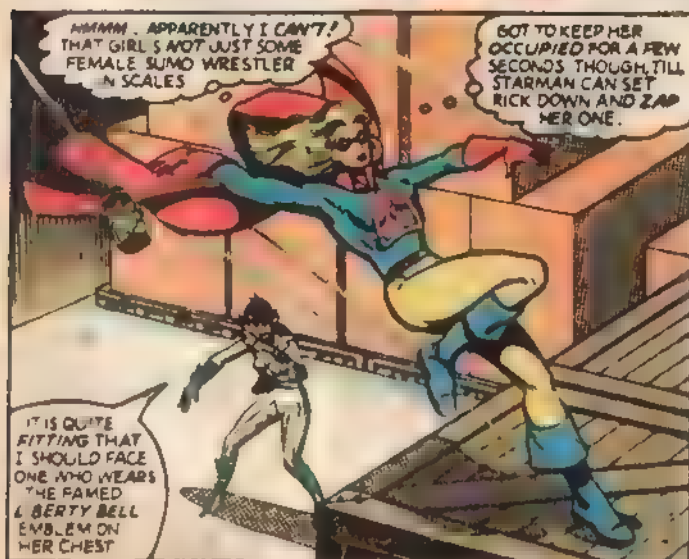
SINCE YOU SEEM TO PREFER JAPAN TO AMER.CA--



--I'LL JUST HAVE TO SEE--



--IF I CAN'T KNOCK YOU BACK THERE!



MMMM. APPARENTLY I CAN'T! THAT GIRL'S NOT JUST SOME FEMALE SUMO WRESTLER IN SCALES

GOT TO KEEP HER OCCUPIED FOR A FEW SECONDS THOUGH, TILL STARMAN CAN SET RICK DOWN AND ZAP HER ONE.

IT IS QUITE FITTING THAT I SHOULD FACE ONE WHO WEARS THE FAMED & BERTY BELL EMBLEM ON HER CHEST

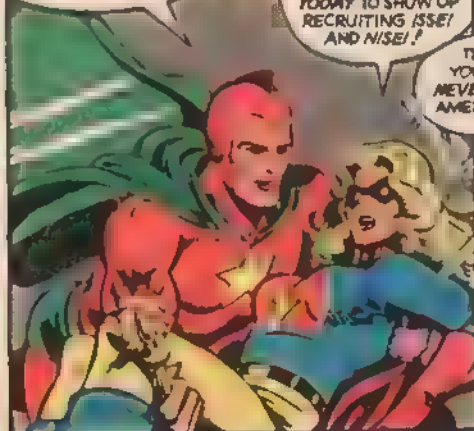


FOR JAPAN SHALL TOPPLE AMERICA, IN THE END--

AS EASILY AS I TOPPLE THESE CRATES UPON WHICH YOU HAVE MADE YOUR STAND

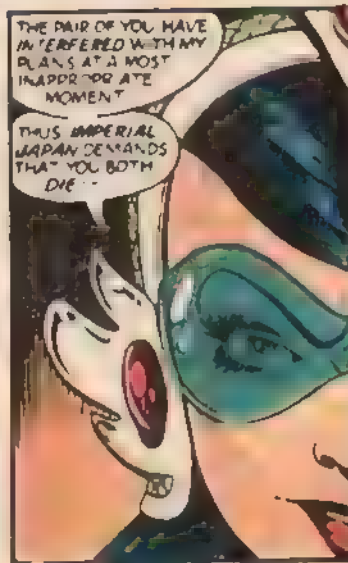
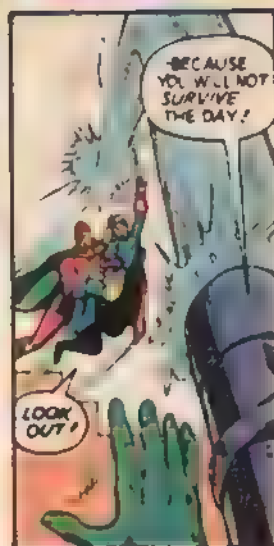


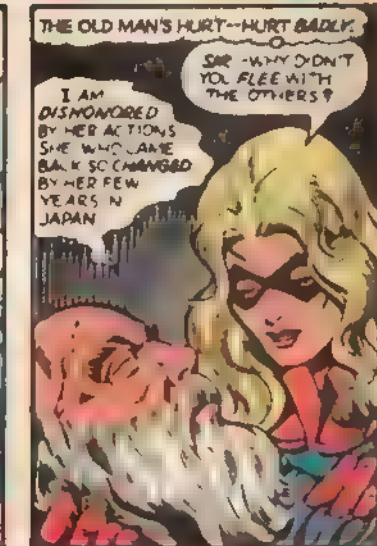
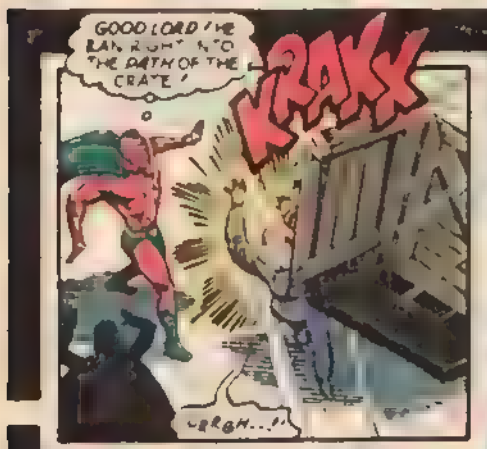
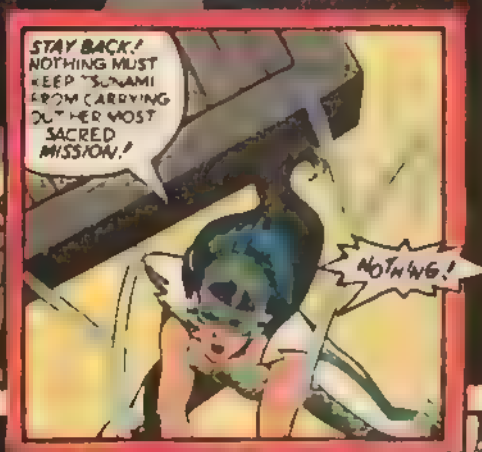
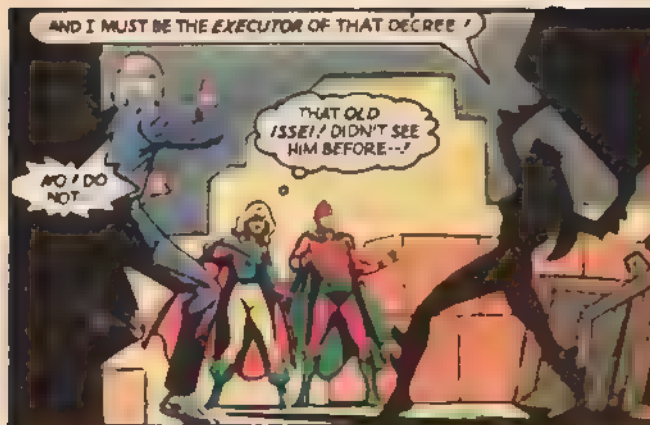
IT'S DONE! AND BY THE WAY BEFORE YOU ASK-- YES CANNON'S OKAY, THOUGH MAYBE A LITTLE THE WORSE FOR WEAR.

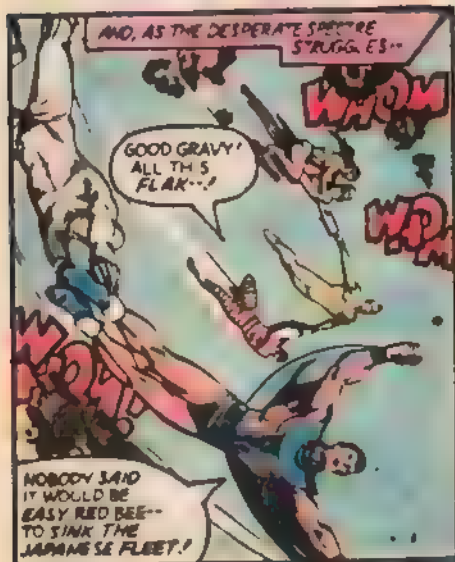
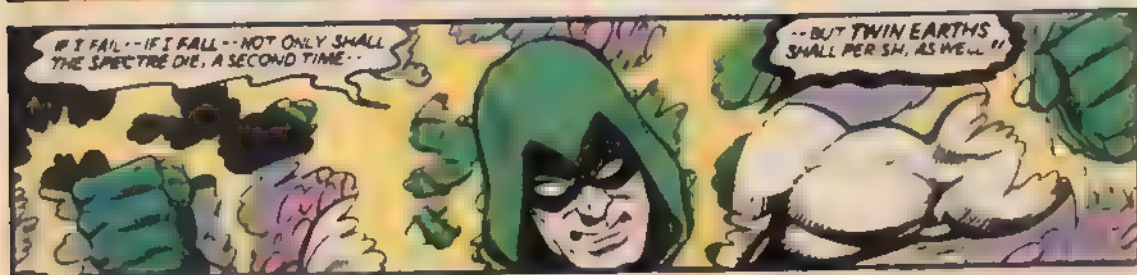


GOOD! THEN LET'S FINISH OFF THIS BAR BAIN BASEMENT SO WE CAN FIND OUT WHY SHE CHOSE TODAY TO SHOW UP RECRUITING JESSE! AND NISEI!

THAT YOU'LL NEVER KNOW, AMERICANS.









THAT'S NOT
A BAD IDEA YOU
HAD ABOUT ME
BEING A
LIBERATOR.

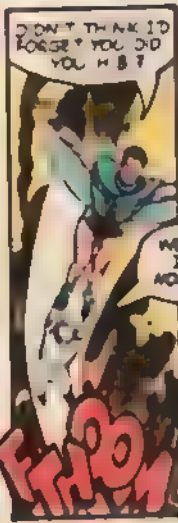
I CAN LIBERATE
THIS SHELL, FOR
INSTANCE...

WHA!



THEN MAKE LIKE A DIVE BOMBER!

YOU
ANYT'DYES
REMEMBER
THOSE FROM
DAYS AGO, DON'T YOU?



DON'T THINK I'D
FORGET YOU DID
YOU H B?

WELL
I
HOPED

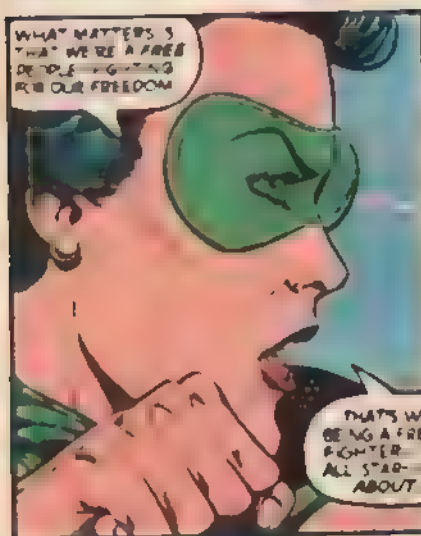


COME ON! LET'S SHOW EM THE
FREEDOM FIGHTERS HAVE COME
TO EARTH-X TO STAY!

ZAP!

WE'RE
WITH
YOU!

NO JACK...
WE'RE
WITH
YOU!



WHAT MATTERS IS
THAT WE'RE A FREE
PEOPLE FIGHTING
FOR OUR FREEDOM

THAT'S WHAT
BEING A FREEDOM
FIGHTER-- OR AN
ALL STAR-- IS ALL
ABOUT!



WE'RE TURNING THE TIDE
SAM!

SURE
APPEARS
LIKE IT,
SON



BECAUSE THEY JUST NEVER
SAW ANYTHING LIKE US
BEFORE

PERHAPS
THEY HAVE
NOT, OLD MAN--
BUT I HAVE!

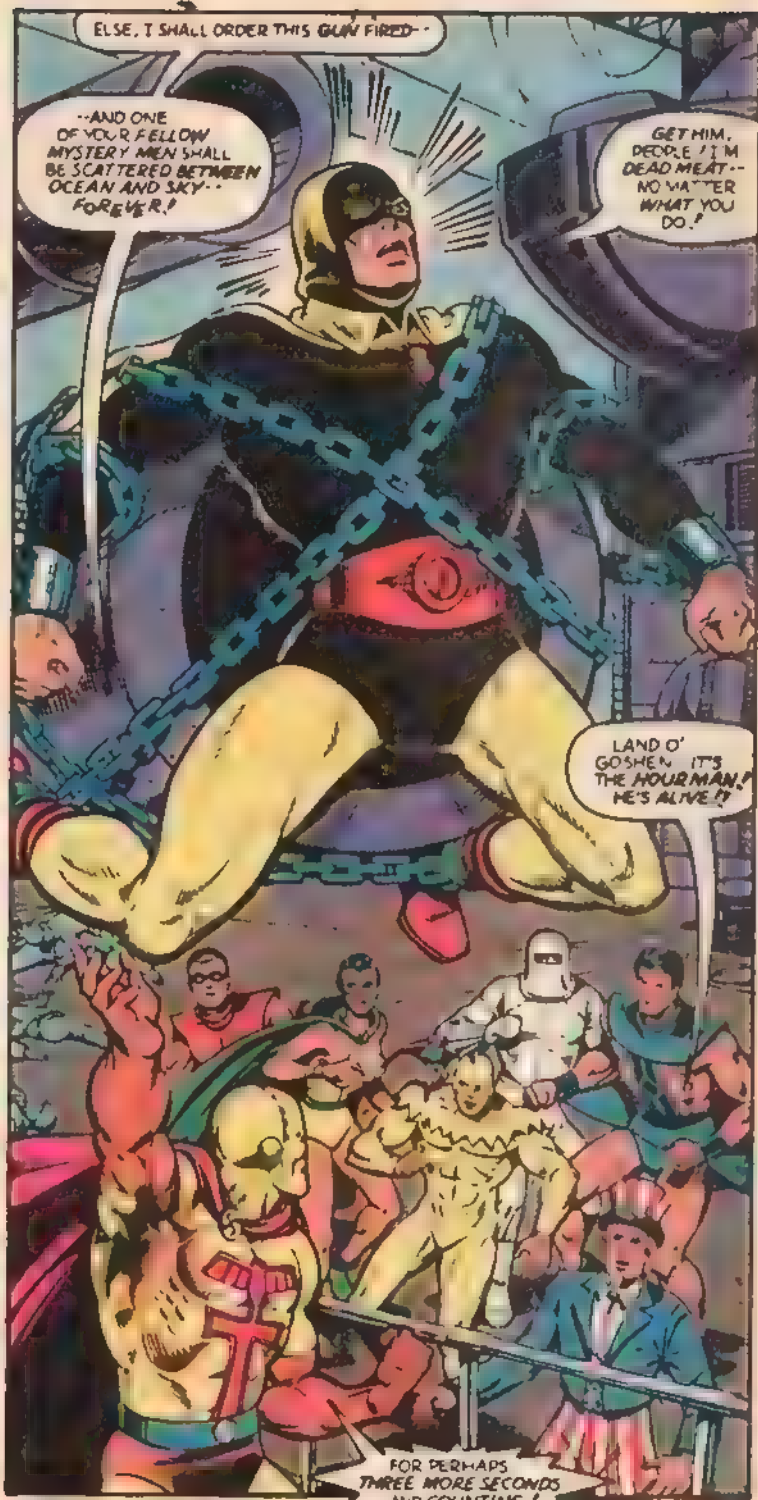
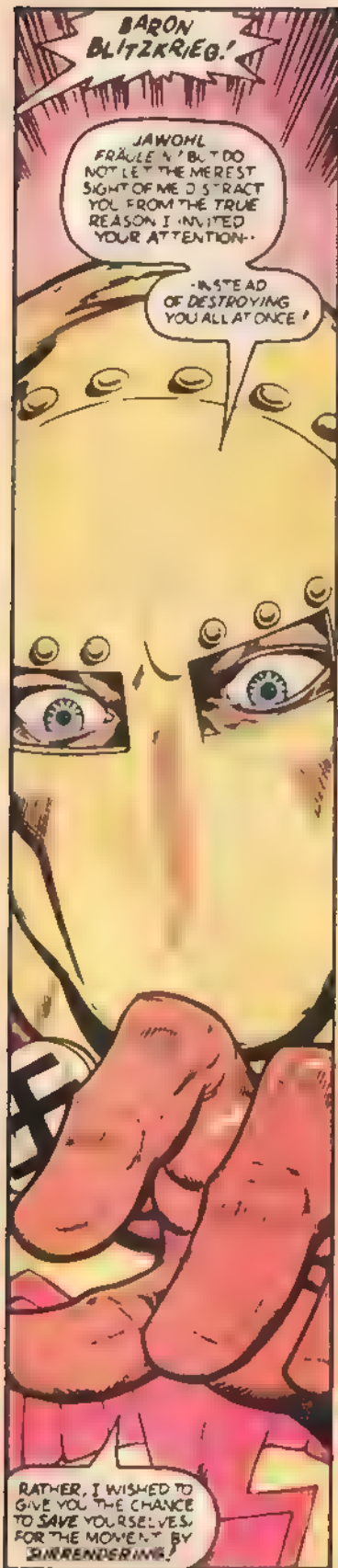


WELL
THAT'S
ON
SAC THAT
--WITH A
GERMAN
AGENT
YES?

JO THERE,
SAM!

HE'S JUST GOT TO BE
THAT NAZI HOODLUM
THAT MIDNIGHT
WARNED US ABOUT--

LAST
PAGE
Ry



NEXT ISSUE:

LEST EARTHS COLLIDE!



SPECIAL NOTE DEPT Since this is a comic-mag which deals at least in part with nostalgia for the original comic heroes, and so many of you wrote to say you enjoyed the insights and info given by ALL-STAR COMICS original creators Sheldon Mayer and Gardner F. Fox some issues back we thought we'd share with you a letter we received recently (in answer to one of our own) from **Mart Modell**. For those of you who understandably are less than 100% certain just who Mr. N is let us hasten to add that he is the original artist creator (along with the writer the late Bill Finger) of the first **GREEN LANTERN**, an accomplishment which all by itself would entitle him to a spot in the Comic-Book Hall of Fame, so we thought you might like to hear what he's been up to since he left **GREEN LANTERN** circa 1947 after the first 25 issues.

Dear Roy:

To quote from your letter to me: "All this rambling must look pretty strange to one who hasn't drawn **GREEN LANTERN** in quite a few years." That hit it right in the bull's-eye!

Where've I been?

Actually, I've been away from comic-book art and story lines since 1950. There was a difference of opinion with DC's editors a few years before, and I left to free-lance and work for **Timely** and **Stan Lee**. My art training, along with illustration, led me to animation, TV production, and eventually ad agencies. I functioned as art director for almost twenty years for ad companies, including **Cunningham & Walsh**; **Norman, Craig, & Kummel**; **B.B.D.&O.**; and **Lee Burnett**, Chicago—winning a few art directors awards along the way. Then came a point of saturation and change, and I worked at preparing special sections for shopping centers and newspapers, then down to Florida from Chicago and the cold. Just working less—not exactly a life of ease.

More recently, some people like yourself and comic-book buffs have prodded me into getting reinvolved in **Green Lantern** character paintings, etc. I'm just getting back into that area and back full cycle after all these years. Just visited DC (Warner) offices in New York; they seemed to welcome me back with open arms. Have made no commitments—but I'm enjoying the whole effort. That's it, in short, without detail—just thumbnail update.

Thanks for your own part in the development of **Green Lantern** in the

past, present, and future.

Mart Modell
(Address Withheld)

*The pleasure's been all mine, Mart. And somehow, in addition to the **Green Lantern** painting we've been discussing in private letters, I'm determined to find a way to get at least a GL pin-up, one of these days, from the man who artistically designed one of the greatest super-heroes of the Golden Age of Comic Books*

—R T

.....

Dear Roy,

Y'know, for someone who rarely writes letters to comics, I find myself writing more and more often to **ALL-STAR SQUADRON**. Guess that's because it's such an exceptional book.

Anyway, about #28: It was an excellent issue, and I enjoyed seeing **Sargon the Sorcerer** (even though he had just popped up in your **JLA/JSA** story). That little quip about the Atom not having any special powers has led me to think you're going to use that radiation he absorbed from **Cyclotron** to explain his sudden super-powers that sprang up in **FLASH #98**, 1948. But what did you mean—Dr. Mid-Nite doesn't have any special powers?? You don't count being able to see in total darkness as a special power??? (Sorry, but I get kind of testy when someone says something even remotely adverse about my favorite **JSAer**.)

As to the membership of the upcoming **INFINITY, INC.**, **La Garra** has got to be a Puerto Rican girl trained by **Ted (WILDCAT) Grant** between **ADVENTURE COMICS #484** and now, right? Why wasn't she seen in **ALL-STAR SQUADRON #25-26** or the Annual? She looks interesting. As for **Sandy the Golden Boy**—you'd better change him back from his silicon state! Monsters are for **Marvel** super-groups and **CAMELOT 3000**, not **INFINITY, INC.**

As to **Star-Spangled Kid**—maybe you'll tell us whatever became of **Stiffpeey**, and of **Merry**, the Girl of 1000 Gimmicks!

More Dr. Mid-Nite!

Dale Roberts
2848 W. Robine
Wilmington, DE 19808

You'll see lots more of him, Dale, probably starting this summer. Sorry we goofed in saying Doc had no "special power" (the term "super-power" didn't exist in 1942, just as the term "super

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hero" seems first to have been used in the **Guardian's** origin in **STAR-SPANGLED #7** in that year—another **Simon-Kirby** first?

A couple of fast notes on your other points:

(1) You're close with the catcycle-riding lady shown in our **INFINITY, INC** pin-up in #28, but we'll leave it to the mag itself to elaborate. Oh, and by the way—the name was supposed to be "**La Garra**," which is Spanish for "The Claw." That's the change I phoned in to DC from California, but in the rush the last letter somehow became an "o" instead of an "a." Sorry about that, too.

(2) The Atom's true super-strength didn't really debut in **FLASH COMICS #98** (the first in which he wore his later costume, the one with the atomic symbol on the chest), but a few issues earlier in **FLASH #94**, in which he turned over an entire trailer truck! This was paralleled by an episode in **ALL-STAR COMICS #41** (the last in which he wore his old outfit), in which he slugged a truck's cab and knocked it several feet in the air! It's our contention that his spontaneously doing these things is what made him realize he had atomic strength by mid-1948, so he changed his costume to reflect the new realities, as suggested in **INFINITY, INC. #1** (When? Did we say these'd be fast notes?)

(3) As to the **Star-Spangled Kid's** sister, **Merry**, who took over his costumed-hero spot briefly in the late 40's when he and the other **Soldiers of Victory** began the adventure that got them "lost in time" for quite a few years—you may see her as a child in **ALL-STAR SQUADRON**, but you'll definitely learn more about her fate in **INFINITY, INC.** Obviously, I see these two magazines, as well as the upcoming **JUSTICE SOCIETY MINI-SERIES** due this summer, as part of a spectrum—a sort of sideways method, you might say, of telling the story of the heroes of Earth-Two. No one of them is totally complete, really, without the others...so hope you enjoy 'em all!

—R T

.....

Dear Mr. Thomas,

Your current work on **ALL-STAR SQUADRON** is fantastic. You have given new life to something that otherwise might well have been forgotten. When this book first came out, I had a bet with a friend that it would not last over twelve

issues. Needless to say, I was wrong—very wrong. ALL-STAR SQUADRON has really kept me interested in a subject I thought would never intrigue me. The war was a horrible thing, of course, but through these “old” super-heroes you have given me an example of what the “real” people must have felt at the time. If it was hard on super-heroes, then it must have been truly terrible for humans. I have enjoyed your work on this book and hope you never leave it.

Peter Gutierrez
P.O. Box 182
Jackson, LA 70748

I don't intend to, Peter. Will you be offended if I tell you how happy I am you lost your bet?

—R.T.

Dear All-Stars,

I thought ALL-STAR SQUADRON was supposed to be about *new* super-heroes! I happen to like Johnny Quick and Liberty Belle, but I'm lucky to get to read about them five times a year in the book now. I'm sure other people would prefer seeing more of the original five as well, so please don't keep putting the Justice Society in the magazine. For one thing, they're boring—and I just wasted 75¢ for #28 because I won't read it. Let's bring the All-Stars back, huh?

Leigh Steak
P.O. Box 72
Hollidaysburg, PA 16848

We printed your letter, Leigh, partly because we want to show our readers—many of whom have written in earlier to complain that there wasn't nearly enough of the JSAers in ALL-STAR SQUADRON—that there are always two sides to every coin.

But we're afraid you missed the point with the Squadron: Not only are all JSAers, past and present (for 1942, anyway), automatically members of the All-Stars, but so are the Seven Soldiers of Victory, the proto-Freedom Fighters, and every other hero who'll respond to President Franklin Roosevelt's call for a united super-herodom. That's why the mag was created in the first place, despite the “holding action” by Liberty Belle and company after Hawkman and his buddies went off to KP duty for a while. Now, however, the JSAers are back as well—so future issues will draw from the entire pool of several dozen Earth-Two heroes. Don't worry, though—you'll be seeing lots more of Belle, JQ, and the rest.

But—the Justice Society boring? How'll you know, led, if you never try reading the ish?

—R.T.

Dear Roy Thomas,

Comic books set during a war have never really appealed to me. Firstly, I find it to be not credible (history shows no such heroes existed), but the DC paradox regarding different earths gets around that problem. I also feel that the

atrocities committed during wars by all sides, and the pain war causes, are sometimes (if not always) best forgotten; others would strongly disagree with that opinion, saying the atrocities should *never* be forgotten. I accept and understand both opinions.

Suffice it to say, every other comics story set during World War Two has been at a disadvantage from the off, due to my personal dislike of war stories. ALL-STAR SQUADRON, much to my own surprise, is enjoyable. I like the comic a lot, and look forward to receiving each issue.

THE INVADERS, the war-era comic you wrote for Marvel, suffered (in my opinion) from sloppy art. ALL-STAR SQUADRON, however, has been blessed with some brilliant artists, from Rich Buckler through Jerry Ordway (who is nothing short of amazing). I also like the way you tie in stories that appeared in

WWII comics, giving them a place in the universe of the “New DC.”

As long as the stories keep to their present high standard, I'll keep buying a “war comic” and like it, something I would not have thought possible.

Roger Myers
43 Winchgrove Road
Priestwood II, Bracknell
Berkshire, RG12 2EJ
ENGLAND

Glad we've “converted” you, Roger—not to liking war, or even war comics, which I myself never liked even when I wrote them, but to a comic set in 1942. Another talented fan, B. Pearce, put it another way in the clever cartoon he did recently for the popular ad-oriented fanzine THE COMIC BUYER'S GUIDE, and we've reprinted his artistic comment elsewhere on this same page (we hope, we hope).

—R.T.



NOSTALGIC NOTE: I might as well admit it—after eighteen years in the crazy comic-book industry, and after writing/editing adventures of most of the greatest heroes of DC and Marvel who've appeared in the past quarter-century, my primary interest is still the heroes and comics titles of the 1940's, crude as they might have been in many ways. In fact, it was my interest as a comics collector which both led to my being in the field in the first place, and to such mega as ALL-STAR SQUADRON and the upcoming Thomas/Ordway JUSTICE SOCIETY MINI-SERIES.

However, I'm still missing a few old issues which would immensely help both the ALL-STAR artists and myself, so I thought I'd appeal to DC's readers

and see if anyone had any of the following for sale in good shape from the (mostly) 1945-50 period, which I specifically collect: ALL-AMERICAN COMICS #62, 81, 89, 90, 95, 98, 100... COMIC CAVALCADE #12, 18, and 25... WONDER WOMAN #2 and 5... GREEN LANTERN (first series) #15, 18, 19, 21, 24... and LEADING COMICS #5, 8, and 9.

Oh, yes, and while I've still got the JUNIOR JUSTICE SOCIETY membership certificate which I received in 1949-50, I'd love to get the badge for same—or any JUSA material from the early '40's. Anybody got any they're willing to part with?

I guess I'm really just a fan at heart.

—Roy Thomas.

THE WAY TO GO

WITH CAPTAIN



...LOOKING FOR KIDS TO HELP...

...CAPTAIN "O" OVERHEARS MIKE AND JENNY TALKING.

I'M BORED! EVERYTHING COSTS SO MUCH! WISH I HAD A JOB!

ME TOO! I'D LOVE TO EARN SOME EXTRA MONEY AFTER SCHOOL!



ARCADE PALACE

LYNN HAS A PROBLEM, TOO.

MY BIKE BROKE AGAIN!

HEY JEFF, YOU HAVE A NEAT BIKE! HOW'D YOU GET IT?

CAPTAIN "O" TOLD ME HOW. AND HE CAN HELP YOU, TOO!



CAPTAIN "O" TO THE RESCUE!

HEY KIDS... WHY DON'T YOU START YOUR OWN BUSINESS?

MY FRIENDS AT OLYMPIC SALES CLUB HAVE A SUPER WAY FOR YOU TO EARN MONEY IN YOUR FREE TIME...

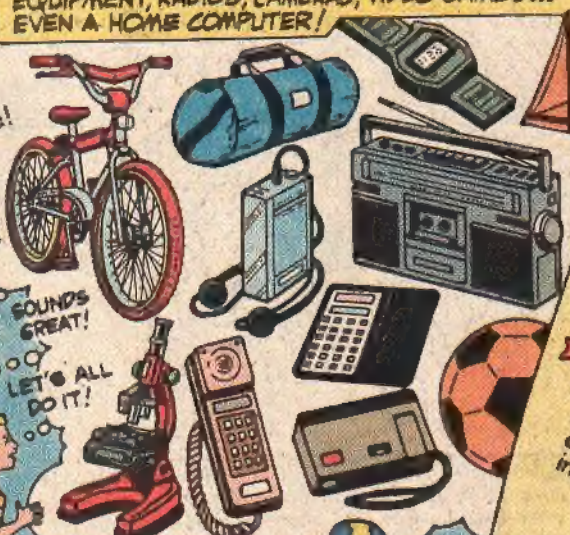


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